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EC1568 Horn Fly Control with Cable Back-Rubbers

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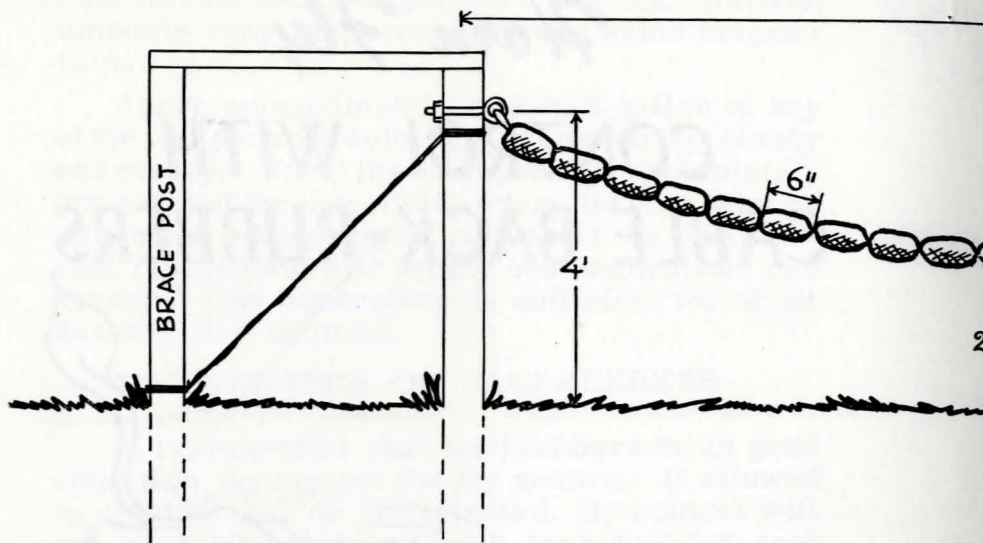
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Horn Fly

CONTROL WITH CABLE BACK-RUBBERS



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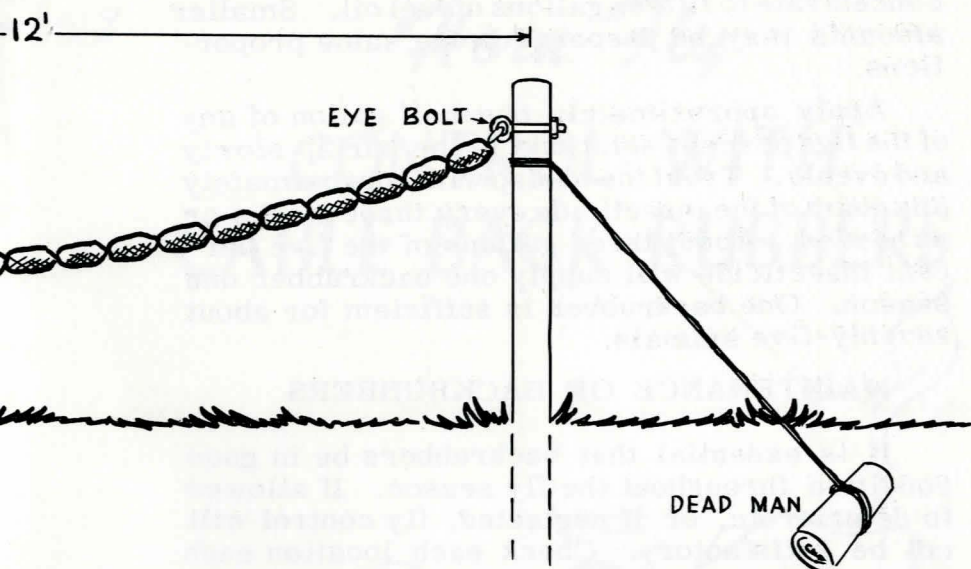
CONTROL OF HORN FLIES WITH CABLE BACKRUBBERS

Robert E. Roselle

Horn flies are the very small blood-sucking flies that are always present wherever cattle are pastured during the summer. They generally congregate on the backs of animals, especially on the shoulders. Other kinds of blood-sucking flies are generally not important in the sandhills of Nebraska. Horn flies may be controlled with several insecticides applied to burlap backrubbers.

BACKRUBBER CONSTRUCTION

Place two pressure-treated posts twelve to sixteen feet apart. The posts should be six inches in diameter and eight feet long. Railroad ties make excellent posts. Set the posts three or more feet in the ground, allowing four and one-half feet above ground. Brace these posts with additional posts, or with dead men as illustrated in the diagram. Stretch a cable, chain or several strands of barbed wire between the posts, allowing it to sag in the center to within two feet



of the ground. Wrap the cable with burlap sacks, winding them on the cable, tying them every six or eight inches with binder twine, or lace them with baling wire. It is not necessary to leave the ends of the sacks hanging. If they are completely wrapped and securely tied the rubber will last much longer. A well constructed backrubber should last one season without repairs. Place backrubbers in locations frequented by cattle, such as watering areas or near salt blocks.

INSECTICIDES

Five percent DDT, TDE, toxaphene or methoxychlor may be used on backrubbers. Many ranchers have reported poor control with DDT. When this is the case, one of the other insecticides should be used.

DDT, TDE, and methoxychlor are generally available in twenty-five percent solutions or emulsion concentrates. Either form is satisfactory. Wettable powders are not satisfactory, and should not be used. To prepare the five percent mixture, add one gallon of the twenty-five percent insecticide to four gallons of fuel oil. Do not use crankcase oil. Toxaphene is generally available in a 60% emulsion concentrate and

should be mixed at the rate of one gallon toxaphene concentrate to fifteen gallons of fuel oil. Smaller amounts may be prepared in the same proportions.

Apply approximately one-half gallon of any of the five percent solutions to the burlap slowly and evenly. Treat the burlap with approximately one quart of the insecticide every three weeks or as needed. About three gallons of the five percent insecticide will supply one backrubber one season. One backrubber is sufficient for about seventy-five animals.

MAINTENANCE OF BACKRUBBERS

It is essential that backrubbers be in good condition throughout the fly season. If allowed to deteriorate, or if neglected, fly control will not be satisfactory. Check each location each week.

MILK COWS

Do not use DDT, TDE, or toxaphene on milking cattle. Only methoxychlor should be used, as the other chemicals are likely to be absorbed through the skin and eliminated in the milk, resulting in possible health hazards.

CAUTIONS

Do not use crankcase or lubricating oils on backrubbers.

Never spray the solutions directly on cattle.

Do not use too much of the solution on the backrubber.

Handle concentrates and dilutions carefully. Insecticides are poisons. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling, immediately if they are spilled on the skin. Change clothing if insecticide is spilled on them.

Always label insecticides carefully, and store them out of the reach of children, pets..... and adults.